

This weekly newsletter should provide you with helpful information that you can share and discuss with your community members.

[\[Click here to view as a webpage\]](#)

Randall's Island Exercise



Be on the lookout for next week's edition of the NYC CERT Newsletter to see photos and more from today's exercise at the FDNY Fire Academy on Randall's Island.



MONDAY RADIO ROLL CALL

Borough Channel: CERT QNS (Queens)

05/01: Bronx

Call Scenario: What Evacuation Zone are you in (if any)? Where is the nearest Evacuation Center?

Documents to Review:

[Citywide Radio Drill Refresher](#)

[Call signs per Radio](#)

QUIZ OF THE WEEK



The correct answer to last week's question is: **B) False!**

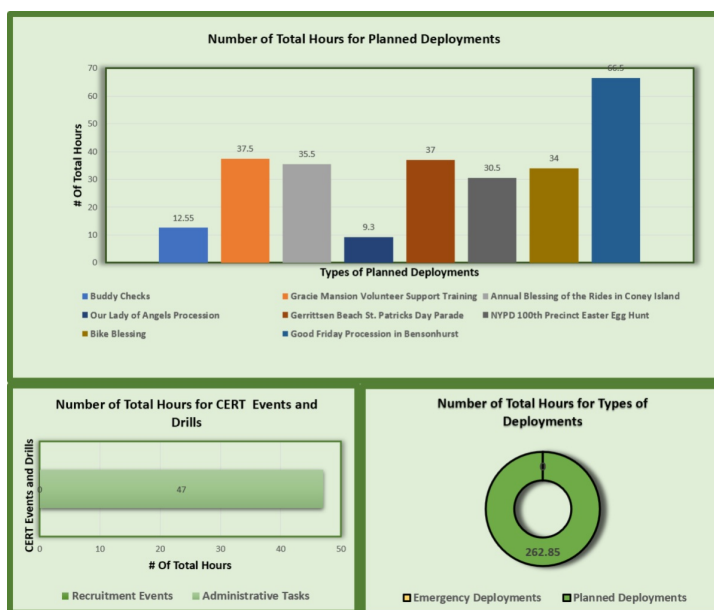
KNOW YOUR ZONE is where you will find information about the city's hurricane evacuation zones, the hazards you may face from a hurricane, and how to prepare. Check it out today and locate your



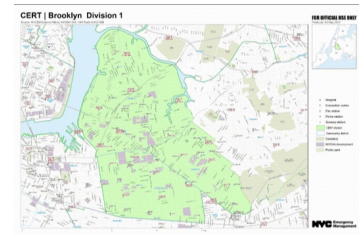
evacuation zone, practice your evacuation plans with your family and update your go-bag! Educate your family and friends on these best practices, too. Preparedness is the main goal of NYC CERT.



April After Action Report



The [NYC CERT Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\)](#) provides guidance and outlines policies and procedures for you and your team to follow.



NYC CERT Division maps are available (pdf format) to support recruitment and preparedness planning in your community.

[Brooklyn](#) - [Bronx](#) - [Manhattan](#) - [Queens](#) - [Staten Island](#)

As we move into the month of May, it's time to review our April after-action-report! There were several volunteer opportunities, advanced training sessions and planned deployments, totaling a reported 305.60 hours: 42.75 hours and 262.85 hours respectively.

The most attended advanced training this month was the Cultural Awareness Training (24.75).

The most attended planned deployment this month was the Good Friday Procession in Bensonhurst (66.5 hours)



View the [NYC CERT Event Calendar](#) to see upcoming training, meetings, and planned deployments.

After you participate, be sure to [Submit Your Volunteer Hours!](#)



As of today, April's total reported volunteer hours tally up to 516.39 hours. Thank you to everyone who has served this month. Let's continue with the great work in Ma.

NYC Kids Festival Shifts



In Marine Park, Brooklyn, the NYC Kids Festival will be presented by the NYPD Community Affairs Bureau. There will be Live Music, a game truck and roughly 200 children will be participating in the various events.

If this opportunity interests you, please click the link below to register.

[May 15th | NYC Kids Festival | 3000 Fillmore Avenue](#)

NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT'S LATEST ¡PREPÁRATE! PODCAST

In recognition of April as National Volunteer Month, the latest episode of New York

For more questions on how to submit your service hours you can view the [Hours Submission FAQs](#).

READY NEW YORK

If your division is hosting or participating in an upcoming event, please complete the [Event Request form](#) to have your opportunity published through Eventbrite.com for members to register.



Your NYC CERT Ready New York Liaison can submit a [Ready New York Material Request](#) for upcoming events.

Get Notified with New York City's official source for information about emergency alerts and important city services. Download the free [Notify NYC](#) mobile app, available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#).

PREPÁRATE

UN PODCAST EN ESPAÑOL

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
NYC Emergency
Management

City Emergency Management's Spanish podcast *¡Prepárate!*, features Grisel Amador and Oscar Rojas, members of the department's NYC Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

The program began in 2003 with 106 volunteers, and to

date, they have worked over 265k volunteer hours and assisted their communities during events such as Hurricane Sandy, the East Village building gas explosion, the annual Homeless Annual Population Outreach, the New York City Marathon, and with the Dyker Heights Christmas Lights.

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of NYC CERT with various events throughout the year, Grisel Amador and Oscar Rojas joined the podcast to share what let them to join the program, why they continue to volunteer, and where they would like to see the program in the next 20 years. Amador and Rojas, who are from Puerto Rico and Colombia respectively, want to encourage all New Yorkers and new transplants to the Big Apple, to join CERT and build stronger communities with their neighbors.

"I continue to serve as a volunteer, because I see it and feel it as an act of love for humanity. It is an act of service that connects people from all backgrounds and all languages," **Oscar Rojas said.**

You can listen to the latest *¡Prepárate!* episode on [SoundCloud](#).



View the full press release [here](#).

Help us Celebrate 20 Years of NYC CERT

Send us your CERT photos or videos!

We have created a link for you to easily upload your collection of CERT related photos and videos from your time in the program.

You may upload several items per event/deployment, but only a maximum of three per submission. After submitting, there will be an option to submit three more!

You can scan the accompanying QR code or use this link: on.nyc.gov/CERTupload

Please label the files in the following manner: **Date (including year), Borough, Division (or team), Event, members included (if available).**



If you have any questions, please contact us at cert@oem.nyc.gov. Thank you!

Monthly Meetings

Manhattan Division 2



This past Thursday Manhattan Division 2 held their virtual team meeting. Throughout the duration of the meeting division 2 members talked about upcoming events, including the exercise taking place on Randall's Island. They also took this time to ask questions about how cert staff will be acting as their division chief.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

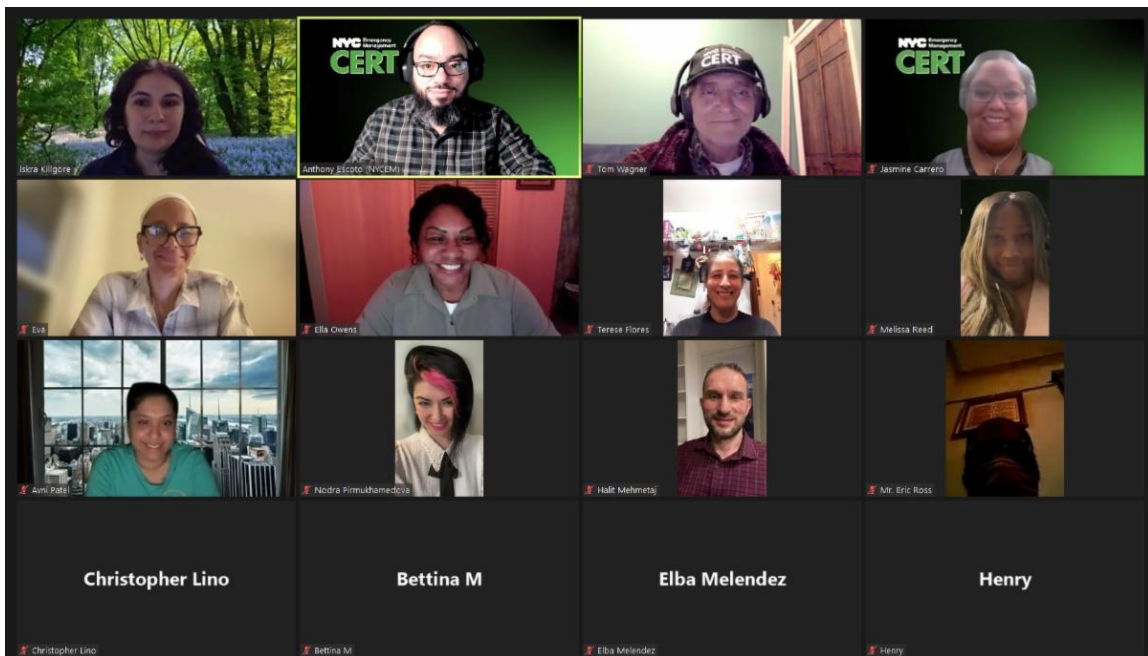
Community Engagement Webinar Series: Community Guide to Catch Basin Cleaning

The Community Preparedness Unit hosted a webinar this past Tuesday, April 25th on the topic, Catch Basin Cleaning. Individual Preparedness Program Manager, ToniAnn Ruggiero accompanied by City Service Corps



member, John Sosa, opened up the webinar with presenters, Steve Allard, from NYC DEP, and Terese Flores, from NYC CERT. Steve shared information on DEP's role in catch basin clearing and some best practices on how to clear the basin, while Terese responded to some questions from CERT Operation & Engagement Specialist, Carlos Cruz, and shared her experience on clearing catch basins and the reason it is so important and helpful to get out there before rain events to do this task.

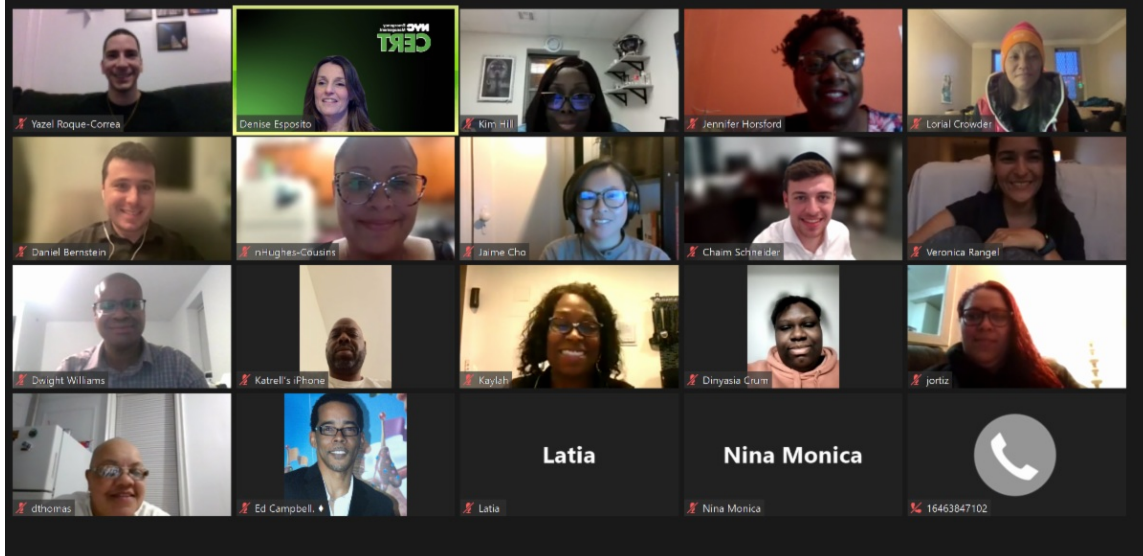
Thank you, Terese, and all CERT members that deploy to clear catch basins!



Cultural Awareness Training

This past Monday, Iskra Killgore, Assistant Commissioner of Community Engagement Bureau, held a virtual course designed for emergency management professionals and volunteers to strengthen cultural awareness and competency in the workplace and in the field when dealing with the different communities we serve.

Participants challenged their own individual biases and assumptions through self-reflection, identify culturally appropriate vocabulary, and acquired creative strategies to use in cross-cultural situations, all of which will help minimize cultural misunderstandings and enhance collaboration and trust.



CERT Orientation

An orientation was held on Thursday, April 27th for new CERT applicants. Attendees came from all over NYC and expressed interest in helping their communities before, during and after emergencies. Many had learned of the CERT program through social media. We are happy to see the word spreading about the great work that NYC CERT members are doing!

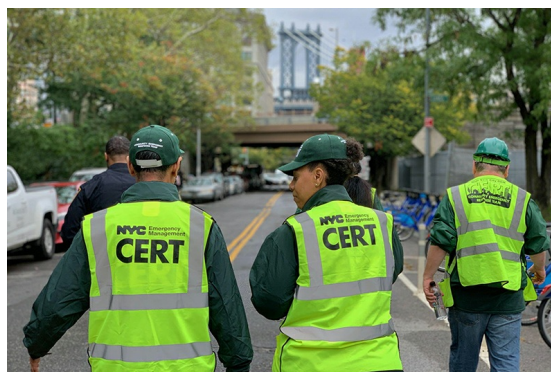
[Download NYC CERT Background](#) for use during CERT meetings and training in a virtual environment (e.g. Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc.)



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Japan parade

The Japan Parade is looking for twenty (20) CERT volunteers with supporting the Parade taking place, at 68th Street & Central Park West, Manhattan, NY from 12pm to 4pm on 05/13/23. CERT volunteers who sign up for this deployment will assist with pedestrian and vehicle traffic management. For more details, [please click here.](#)



The Fabulous 5th Ave Fair

The NYPD 78th Pct., Community Affairs Division is looking for twenty (20) CERT volunteers with supporting the Fabulous Fifth Avenue taking place at



5th Ave between 3rd & 4th St Brooklyn, NY 11215 on 05/21/23 from 9:30AM to 4pm. CERT volunteers who sign up for this deployment will assist with pedestrian and vehicle traffic management. For more details, [please click here](#).

FiveBoroBikeTour-Watch Command Support/NCO and event Support



NYCEM Watch command requests CERT volunteers to support the FiveBoroBikeTour this May 7th. CERT Volunteers will be expected to support with radio operations, tracking volunteers on the CERT board tracker, and assist with phone support within NYCEM's EOC.

[To register please click here.](#)

The FiveBoroBikeTour needs your support! The following sites are light on support, and we are asking for CERT volunteers to sign up to assist NYC Emergency Management and Bike New York with NYC CERT's participation in the event. For more details, please click on the sites/shifts that you are interested in supporting.

FBBT Sites Requesting Volunteers!

Queens

[Astoria Rest Area \(6:30 am-3:00 pm\)](#)

Brooklyn

[Con Edison Rest Area Shift 1 \(7 am-12 pm\)](#)

[Commodore Barry Rest Stop \(7 am-5 pm\)](#)

[Brooklyn Bridge Shift 1 \(730am-12 pm\)](#)

[Brooklyn Bridge Shift 2: \(11:30 am-4 pm\)](#)

Staten Island

[Bay Street Water Stop Shift 1 \(930am-2:00 pm\)](#)
[Bay Street Water Stop Shift 2 \(1130am-6:30 pm\)](#)
[Finish Festival Shift 1 \(6:30 am-12 pm\)](#)
[Finish Festival Shift 2 \(9 am-4 pm\)](#)
[Finish Festival Shift 3 \(3 pm-8 pm\)](#)

Bronx

[Bronx Water Stop \(6:45 am-12:45 pm\)](#)
[Bronx \(Stationary\) \(6:30 am-6 pm\)](#)

Manhattan

[Battery Park \(5:30am-11am\)](#)
[FDR Rest Area \(6:30 am-2:00 pm\)](#)
[VIP Area \(Manhattan\) \(5 am-11 am\)](#)
[Central Park \(6am-11am\)](#)

Packet Pick up: Crowd Control Volunteers direct participants to the correct packet pickup line by asking a series of questions at 415 5th Avenue in Manhattan.

[THURS SHIFT 1 \(4 PM-8:30 PM\)](#)
[FRI SHIFT 2 \(1:30 pm-730pm\)](#)
[SAT SHIFT 1 \(7:30 am-2 pm\)](#)
[SAT SHIFT 2 \(1230pm-6:30 pm\)](#)

7th Annual SSG Michael Ollis 5k Run & 2-Mile Walk

The 7th Annual SSG Michael Ollis 5k Run & 2-Mile event will be taking place on June 11th between 7am-1pm. NYC CERT has been requested to assist with pedestrian traffic management, event preparation along with various other roles.

[If interested, please register here.](#)



NYC CERT CALENDAR

Buddy Check

As we close out a long year of volunteering to support your community and head into a new year with new challenges, please take some time to support one another. The best way to do that is by performing buddy checks.

What is a buddy check?

Taking the time to check on family and friends, especially those unable to leave their home for any reason. You might be surprised by the impact you'll have on those who you connect with.

[Report your Volunteer Hours](#)

Search for *Buddy Check* Event



All Volunteer leadership should be encouraging active members to serve in a mentor role in order to support both their growth as leaders and provide new opportunities for newer members to become more engaged.

Complete the [NYC CERT Mentor Program form](#) to let us know if you'd like to be a mentor or mentee. Complete the [Matching Questionnaire](#) to help pair the mentor to a mentee. Both forms must be filled out to participate in the program.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

[NYC CERT online platform](#) includes online courses to support volunteer growth.

Schedule free training for your Division here : [FDNY Smart Fire Safety](#).

[FEMA Region 2 \(R2\) Webinar Catalogue](#) includes all recorded webinars.

COVID-19 Community Conversations: Mental Health, Equity and Resilience
DOHMH is offering free virtual training to community groups. There are two options, a [1-hour informational virtual presentation](#) and a [3-hour interactive training](#) (available in English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin).

THINGS TO KNOW

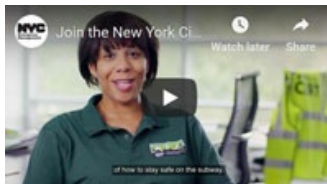
CERT Self-Deployment

We at NYCEM appreciate NYC CERT volunteer's service and dedication to public safety and want to support members in any way possible. However, as your instructors, Division/Borough leadership, and NYCEM staff have told all CERT members from day one of basic training: NYC CERT members/teams **NEVER** self-deploy.

We encourage all CERT to listen to their Division leadership and ask any questions that may come to mind. We also want to encourage all members to review the NYC CERT Standard Operating Procedures, Section 5: Operations, Deployment protocol.

Find the NYC CERT Protocols here: [NYC CERT SOPs](#)

Schedule a meeting with NYCEM staff: [NYC CERT Volunteer Support](#)



[NYCEM's YouTube page](#)
[NYC CERT recruitment video](#)
[2021 National Volunteer Week video](#)

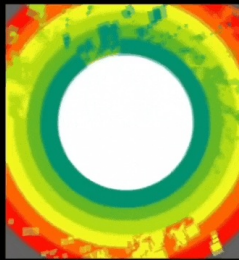


[Resolve to Be Ready Calendar](#)
Regular reminders in simple steps that can help you work preparedness into your busy schedule.



Listen to the NEW episodes of NYCEM's two podcasts, Prep Talk ([SoundCloud](#), [iTunes](#) & [Spreker](#)) and ¡Prepárate! on [SoundCloud](#).

know about hurricanes in New York City.



You'll find information about the city's hurricane evacuation zones, the hazards you may face from a hurricane, and what to do to prepare.

NYC Emergency Management



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